

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1           1.     A method of allocating use of peripheral devices in a network system  
2 comprised of:

3           identifying users in the network system to a central device;  
4           providing peripheral device access limitations to the users by the central  
5           device; and  
6           informing the peripheral devices of the access allowed to users by the central  
7           device.

1           2.     The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2           accounting peripheral device usage of the users by the central device.

1           3.     The method of claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices perform  
2 document processing.

1           4.     The method of claim 3 further comprising:  
2           reading marks on documents processed by the peripheral devices; and  
3           identifying by the marks the documents to the central device.

1           5.     The method of claim 4 further comprising:  
2  
3           relating the identified documents to users that request the identified  
4           documents.

1           6.     The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2           providing an embedded virtual machine in each of the peripheral devices  
3           wherein the embedded virtual machine interfaces to the central device.

1           7.     The method of claim 6 wherein at least one of the peripheral devices is  
2 a multi-functional peripheral device whereby the central device configures the multi-  
3 functional peripheral device to serve specific functions.

1           8.     The method of claim 1 wherein the central device comprises of logic in  
2 a server connected to the network system.

1           9.     The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 providing the users with collective and individual information and status of the  
3 peripheral devices.

1           10.    A network system controlling and managing resource usage comprised  
2 of:  
3 a central device;  
4 one or more users; and  
5 one or more peripheral devices, wherein the central device provides  
6 information to the peripheral devices as to access by the users.

1           11.    The network system of claim 10 wherein the central device accounts  
2 for peripheral device usage of the users.

1           12.    The network system of claim 10 wherein the peripheral devices  
2 process documents.

1           13.    The network system of claim 12 wherein the documents are given a  
2 mark read by the peripheral devices and identified by the central device.

1           14.    The network system of claim 13 wherein the documents are related to  
2 users that request the documents.

1           15.    The network system of claim 10 wherein the peripheral devices are  
2 further comprised of an embedded virtual machine that interfaces to the central  
3 device.

1           16.     The network system of claim 15 wherein at least one of the peripheral  
2 devices is a multi-functional peripheral device whereby the central device configures  
3 the multi functional peripheral device to serve specific functions.

1           17.     The network system of claim 10 wherein the central device comprises  
2 control logic in a server connected to the network system.

1           18.     The network system of claim 10 whereby users are provided collective  
2 and individual information and status of the peripheral devices.

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